

Message Text

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21

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR, US

SUBJECT: STIPENDS FOR IREX JUNIOR SCHOLARS

1. IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET INITIATIVE, IREX NOW NEGOTIATING WITH SOVEMBASSY TO RAISE STIPENDS OF US AND SOVIET JUNIOR SCHOLARS. IREX HAS REJECTED INCREASES BASED ON DOL/RUBLE EXCHANGE RATE AND PROPOSES 25 PER CENT INCREASE, ON BOTH SIDES, OVER AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 1B OF "CONDITIONS" GOVERNING "GENERAL AGREEMENT." THIS WOULD MEAN MONTHLY STIPENDS OF DOLS 250 FOR SOVIETS AND RUBLES 206 FOR US JUNIOR SCHOLARS. SINCE IREX UNILATERALLY RAISED SOVIET STIPENDS LAST YEAR FROM DOLS 200 TO 230 PER MONTH, IREX PROPOSAL REPRESENTS SIZEABLE GAIN FOR US SIDE IN RELATIVE TERMS. DEPT BELIEVES EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN DEPT AND SOVEMBASSY SUFFICIENT TO EFFECT SUCH A CHANGE.

2. SOVEMBASSY REPORTED TO IREX THAT DURING SOVEMBASSY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BRIEFING, SOVIET JUNIOR SCHOLARS REPORTED MHE INFORMED THEM, PRIOR THEIR DEPARTURE FROM USSR, THAT ALREADY NEGOTIATED STIPEND INCREASE WOULD ENTITLE THEM TO DOLS 300 PER MONTH IN US, AND FURTHER STATED THAT US SCHOLARS WERE ALREADY RECEIV-

ING INCREASED STIPENDS (NO AMOUNT SPECIFIED). IREX UNAWARE
OF ANY AGREED STIPEND INCREASE.

3. DEPT SUPPORTS IREX PROPOSAL AND REQUESTS EMBASSY
CONCURRENCE. ALSO PLS ADVISE RE ACCURACY OF CLAIM THAT US
JUNIOR SCHOLARS NOW RECEIVING INCREASED STIPENDS. IREX
REQUIRES THIS INPUT TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER

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